Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)

29. Shri Navratan Samdria, President, FIEO

30. Shri K.K. Jain Vice President, FIEO

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

31. Shri R. Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, International, Trade Committee, CII

32. Dr. Omkar Goswami, Economist and Senior Consultant, CII

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)

33. Mr. Pradeep B. Chinai, President, India Merchants Chamber, Mumbai.

34. Mr. Rohan Shah Advocate, Supreme Court, Indian Merchants Chamber, Mumbai.

Export of Pepper

1113. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pepper export has come down for the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of export; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the export performance of pepper?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The details of export of pepper for the last three years are given below:

Year	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
1996-97	47893	41231.84
1997-98	35907	49635.70
1998-99	34864	63811.28

(c) Apart from general Policy reforms, some of the steps taken to improve the export of pepper include promotion of Indian brands

abroad, promotion of pepper in consumer packs with logo, promotion of Indian pepper products abroad, improvement in packaging and introduction of bar coding system, technology transfer and process upgradation, enhancing quality of pepper and pepper products to international standards, arranging buyer seller meets and participation in international fairs.

Industrial Sickness

1114. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made on the incidence of industrial sickness;

(b) if so, what is the position, sector-wise;

(c) what are the major reasons for industrial sickness; and

(d) the measures proposed for reducing industrial sickness?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). 2476 non-SSI units have been reported (as at the end of March, 1998) as sick/weak accounting for outstanding bank credit of Rs. 11825.25 crore. Sector-wise position of industrial sickness is as below:

Sector	% of units	% Outstanding Bank Credit
Private Sector	80.9	68.6
Public Sector	11.7	25.5
Joint/Co-operative Sector	7.4	5.9
TOTAL:	100.0	100.0

(c) According to the RBI report, several factors, both internal and external often working in combination, have been responsible for industrial sickness. These include shortcomings in project appraisal, project management deficiencies, non-availability of raw materials,